



Good housekeeping is such a routine, everyday task, that its contribution to storm water pollution prevention is sometimes forgotten. This bulletin reviews housekeeping Best Management Practices (BMPs) and the potential for reducing polluting discharges to the storm water drainage system.



Maintenance Yard

A well-organized, neat yard reduces exposure of unwanted pollutants to storm water *and* presents a professional and responsible image to the public. Housekeeping practices for yard and grounds maintenance include common sense practices to reduce the potential for pollutant accumulation or discharge, such as:

- Maintain clean, orderly material and equipment storage areas; provide covers for materials as needed. Organized storage not only improves the yard's appearance, but allows better inventory control and avoids waste.
- Use the first in first out policy for material storage and control. Avoid ordering quantities of materials greater than can be stored properly or used in a reasonable amount of time.
- Properly dispose of empty containers, excess materials, and unused and obsolete equipment and parts that are not likely to be used.
- Maintain equipment and buildings to avoid peeling paint, rust, and degradation.
- Implement a regular sweeping program to remove litter and dirt subject to wind and tracking.

- Designate stockpile areas away from the storm water drain inlets and outside of storm water flow paths.
- Regularly inspect and clean drainage inlets, ditches and flow lines.

Shop Areas and Equipment Parking

Following Best Management Practices for shop areas and equipment parking reduces the potential for pollutants to be discharged and introduced into storm water.

- Follow storm water BMPs for handling used vehicle/equipment fluids (see the April, 1998 Bulletin for details).
- Promptly clean up minor leaks and spills with absorbent. Use drip pans or absorbent material under leaking vehicles and equipment to capture fluids.
- Avoid storing equipment on unpaved areas that are not easily cleaned.
- Promptly pick up spill cleanup materials and absorbents to avoid tracking throughout the yard. Allowing spill cleanup materials to become litter and sources of pollutants defeats the spill and leak cleanup effort!
- Use dry clean up methods. Hosing down the pavement can wash pollutants directly to the storm water system.
- *Never dispose of mop water into the parking lot, street, gutter, or storm drain.*



Debris and litter clog the drainage inlet and mix with storm water runoff.

This bulletin is published monthly by the Storm Water Compliance Review Task Force to support the Caltrans maintenance staff in its efforts to achieve and maintain compliance with storm water pollution prevention regulatory requirements.

Storm Water Good Housekeeping Practices

Additional information is available in the Caltrans Maintenance Manual, Chapter C-6, or from your District Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator. Questions or comments may be directed to Jack Broadbent, Maintenance Storm Water Coordinator, (916) 653-0361